

BEFORE THEY WERE MARRIED.

BY HENRY C. PARKER, AUTHOR OF "SCORNED TO THE END," "ARBITRATION," & C.

CONDITIONS OF THE STAR'S GREAT OFFER.

1. The Star will pay \$250 in gold to the reader from whom it receives by mail, at the publication office, Pennsylvania avenue and 11th street, the complete and absolutely correct solution of "Before They Were Married," as it shall be disclosed in the first chapter of the story, to be published Saturday, December 14, in The Star. If two or more complete and absolutely correct solutions are received the \$250 in gold will be divided equally.

2. Should The Star fail to receive a solution that is complete and absolutely correct in all its details, the \$250 in gold will be divided into four equal parts, each of \$62.50, and each of these four parts will be awarded to the person sending the explanation next nearest to the true solution of the mystery according to their percentage of merit, and the money will be divided equally.

3. The Star will pay \$250 in gold to the reader from whom it receives by mail, at the publication office, Pennsylvania avenue and 11th street, the complete and absolutely correct solution of "Before They Were Married," as it shall be disclosed in the first chapter of the story, to be published Saturday, December 14, in The Star. If two or more complete and absolutely correct solutions are received the \$250 in gold will be divided equally.

4. Inquiries not considered fully answered here will receive proper attention if addressed to "Prize Story Editor," The Evening Star.

5. The \$250 will be awarded under the foregoing general conditions, according to the best judgment of the judges appointed by The Star, and they will have complete control and final decision in all matters relating to the contest.

6. A complete and correct solution "can be made in the reader's own language and in the number of words necessary for an absolute statement of the reader's guess. It must disclose the mystery and such material as is necessary to reveal the development of the story as may be deemed necessary by the judges to a clear and full explanation of the mystery.

7. The names and addresses of the winners of the cash prizes will be published in The Star at the earliest date possible after the publication of the final chapter.

8. No condition of subscription to The Evening Star is imposed. Guessers must be women and girls and necessarily they must be residents of the United States.

9. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

10. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

11. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

12. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

13. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

14. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

15. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

16. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

17. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

18. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

19. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

20. The Star will accept of no solution of the mystery which is not a complete and correct solution of the mystery as it is presented in the story.

FIFTEENTH INSTALLMENT.

CHAPTER XV—LOVE'S CROSS PURPOSES.

Amelia slowly and painfully withdrew from the banister and stood erect, the professor towering in front of her, ready, in the least provocation, to let his fury loose again. She saw her traveling bag upon the floor and stooped mechanically to pick it up.

"Take it with you," snarled the professor, still keeping his voice down to a whisper. The unhappy girl looked and moved as if she were bewildered.

"You have no right to keep me here," she said faintly. "I am not your daughter; you are no longer my legal guardian. I cannot stay here."

"You can stay here and you must," retorted Prof. Drummond. "Do you think I shall let you go out and publish your calumnies against me? It is foul enough that you operate from within my own household."

Her eyes flashed a little at this, as if resentment were clearing the shadows from her mind.

"I have done very wrong," she answered. "I have done very wrong. That is why I am going away."

"You will let me go soon?" she said inquiringly.

"Very soon, Amelia," he responded. "I understand your feeling, and I approve of your decision to leave, but I have been better to speak to me about it. Never mind. I shall not reproach you. Go to your room and wait."

Amelia slowly and softly went upstairs. Both could hear the rippling laughter of Louise, quickly recovered from the horrors of the plot revealed, and she knew that Mrs. Williams' room; from below stairs rose the faint drone of the serving women, as they discussed household affairs. The exciting consideration was passing without attracting the slightest attention.

At the top of the stairs Amelia turned, and saw her uncle watching her.

Slowly she turned toward her room, and a moment later the professor heard the door open and close. He drew a long breath, and went into the dining room, threw himself into a chair and leaned his head on his hands. Louise and Mrs. Williams found him thus when they came down a few minutes later. Mrs. Williams entered the dining room and Louise went to the front door.

"The door is locked!" she exclaimed, turning the key. "How funny."

"I must have locked it myself," said the professor, rising. "I was preoccupied, and must have thought that it was bedtime."

"You are fatigued from your journey, I suppose," suggested Mrs. Williams.

"Preoccupied," Louise said so, cried out. "What do you think I have done now, papa? What is it you've forgotten?"

"What a question, Lou!" he retorted. "I know what I have forgotten! I know how could I have forgotten it? Puzzle that out, young lady."

"Oh, well," said Louise, "I didn't ask a riddle, but I shall have to start a new one. He went into the hall and put on his hat. 'Have you seen Amelia, papa?' asked Louise.

"Louise," he replied, "I was just about to speak to her. I saw her while you and Mrs. Williams were busy. I advised her to leave, and she had a terrific headache."

"She fainted at that horrid inquest," said Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"

"I wouldn't go up if I were you," interposed Louise.

"She did?" exclaimed Mrs. Williams, getting up. "What do you mean? What can I do for her. Why didn't you speak of it before?"